

Serial No. 10/541,026

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application and reflects the amendment of claims 1-9 and 11-13 and the cancellation of claims 10 and 14-15.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) Method of preparing a composition comprising mixing a silica sol having an S-value from about ~~5~~ 15 to about ~~50~~ 45 % and a mineral acid, wherein the weight ratio of silica to mineral acid is from about 1:100 to about 25:100.
2. (Currently amended) Method according to claim 1, wherein the S-value is from about ~~8~~ 15 to about 40 %.
3. (Currently amended) Method according to claim 1 [or 2], wherein the S-value is from about ~~12~~ 15 to about 35 %.
4. (Currently amended) Method according to ~~any of~~ claim[s] 1[-3], wherein the silica sol has a specific surface area from about 400 to about 1200 m²/g.
5. (Currently amended) Method according to ~~any of~~ claim[s] 1[-4], wherein the silica sol has a specific surface area from about 500 to about 1000 m²/g.
6. (Currently amended) Method according to ~~any of~~ claim[s] 1[-5], wherein the silica sol has a specific surface area from about 600 to about 900 m²/g.
7. (Currently amended) Method according to ~~any of~~ claim[s] 1[-6], wherein the mineral acid is sulphuric acid.
8. (Currently amended) Method according to ~~any of~~ claim[s] 1[-6], wherein the mineral acid is hydrochloric acid, nitric acid, phosphoric acid, and mixtures thereof.
9. (Currently amended) Method according to ~~any of~~ claim[s] 1[-8], wherein orthophosphoric acid and/or sodium sulphate is further added.
10. (Cancelled)
11. (Currently amended) Method of producing a battery comprising providing a composition according to ~~any of~~ claim[s] 1[-10].
12. (Currently amended) Composition obtainable by the method according to any of claims 1-10 obtained by preparing a composition comprising mixing a silica sol

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having an S-value from about 15 to about 45 % and a mineral acid, wherein the weight ratio of silica to mineral acid is from about 1:100 to about 25:100.

13. (Currently amended) Composition comprising a network of silica particles and mineral acid, wherein the silica particles have a particle size of from about 2 to about 7 nm, wherein the weight ratio of silica to mineral acid is from about 1:100 to about 25:100.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)